IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for negotiation or re-negotiation of <u>at least one</u> <s>a</s> parameter <s>or parameters</s> for use in the operation of a protocol that controls data transmission between first <s>Communication Units (CUs)</s><u>communication units</u> and third <s>Cus</s><u>communication units</u> via second <s>Cus</s><u>communication units</u>,

where <s>the</s><u>said</u> protocol is operated by protocol entities in <s>the</s><u>said</u> first and third <s>Cus</s><u>communication units</u>,

where a first <s>Cu</s><u>communication unit</u> is always associated with a second <s>Cu</s><u>communication unit</u> at a time,

where a second <s>Cu</s><u>communication unit</u> is always associated with a third <s>Cu</s><u>communication unit</u> at a time, and

where there exist s<s>econd Cus of at least a first and second type and/or</s>third <s>CUs</s><u>communication units</u> of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

<s>characterised in that</s><u>said method comprising:</u>

<u>wherein</u> when an existing association of <s>said</s><u>a</u> first <s>CU</s><u>communication unit</u> with a former second <s>CU</s><u>communication unit that was associated with a third</u> <u>communication unit of said first type</u> is changed to an association of said first <s>CU</s><u>communication unit</u> with a new second <s>CU</s><u>communication unit that is</u> <u>associated with a third communication unit of said second type,</u>

said protocol entities of <s>the</s><u>said</u> first <s>CU</s><u>communication unit</u> and protocol entities of <s>the</s><u>said</u> third <s>CU</s><u>communication unit of said second type</u> <s>associated with the new second CU</s> exchange at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter<u>, and</u>

<u>starting said exchange of said at least one negotiation message by transmitting,</u> <u>from a protocol entity of said first communication unit, a negotiation message containing</u>

a value for said parameter to a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~
~~the former second CU was associated with a third CU of a first type and the new second CU is associated with a third CU of a second type~~ wherein in said exchange of said negotiation message, said protocol entity in said first communication unit performs the following:
a first checking whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type, and
a second checking whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated,
wherein said transmitting, from said protocol entity of said first communication unit, said negotiation message containing a value for said parameter to said protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type is only performed if said first and second checking produced positive results.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~2,
~~characterised in that~~wherein in said exchange of ~~at least one~~said negotiation message, ~~the~~said protocol entity of ~~the~~said third ~~CU~~communication unit of said second type ~~associated with the new second CU~~ performs the following ~~steps~~:
receiving ~~the~~said negotiation message transmitted by ~~the~~said protocol entity of ~~the~~said first ~~CU~~communication unit containing a value for said parameter, and
transmitting a negotiation message to ~~the~~said protocol entity of ~~the~~said first ~~CU~~communication unit containing ~~the~~said received value or a higher value for said parameter.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said first ~~CU~~communication unit is a ~~Mobile Station (MS)~~mobile station of a mobile radio system,

~~that~~wherein said second ~~CUs~~communication units are ~~Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs)~~base transceiver stations, and

~~that~~wherein said third ~~CUs~~communication units are ~~Mobile-services Switching Centres (MSCs)~~mobile-services switching centres.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~the~~said first type is a ~~MSC~~mobile-services switching centre of a mobile network operated according to the ~~UMTS~~universal mobile telecommunications system standard or a derivative thereof ~~(UMTS-MSC)~~, and

~~that~~wherein said third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~the~~said second type is a ~~MSC~~mobile-services switching centre of a mobile network operated according to the ~~GSM~~global system for mobile communications standard or a derivative thereof ~~(GSM-MSC)~~.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said protocol is a circuit switched, non-transparent single- and/or multi-link data protocol with ~~Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)~~an automatic repeat request.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said protocol is ~~the~~a ~~Radio Link Protocol (RLP)~~radio link protocol.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said parameter defines ~~the~~a value of a re-

sequencing timer that guards ~~the~~<u>a</u> difference between ~~the~~ delays of frames transmitted on different physical links within a multi-link protocol.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~7~~<u>2</u>,

    ~~characterised in that~~<u>wherein</u> said <u>protocol is a circuit switched, non-transparent single- and/or multi-link data protocol with automatic repeat request, and</u>

    <u>wherein said</u> first ~~step of~~ checking whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between ~~the~~<u>said</u> protocol entities of ~~the MS and GSM MSC~~ <u>said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type</u> comprises ~~the step of~~ checking whether <u>said</u> ~~the~~ data transmission between ~~the MS and the GSM MSC~~<u>said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type</u> is a multi-link transmission or whether there is a possibility that ~~the~~<u>a</u> single-link transmission will be upgraded to a multi-link transmission later.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10,

    ~~characterised in that~~<u>wherein</u> said second ~~step of~~ checking whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated comprises ~~the step of~~ checking whether a value for said re-sequencing timer was defined by ~~the~~<u>a</u> user of ~~the MS~~<u>said mobile station</u>.

12. A method ~~according to claim 1,~~

    ~~characterised in that~~

    ~~the former second CU is a second CU of a first type and the new second CU is a second CU of a second type~~ <u>for negotiation or re-negotiation of at least one parameter for use in the operation of a protocol that controls data transmission between first communication units and third communication units via second communication units,</u>

    <u>where said protocol is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units, where a first communication unit is always associated with a second communication unit at a time,</u>

    <u>where a second communication unit is always associated with a third</u>

communication unit at a time, and

where there exist second communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

said method comprising:

wherein when an existing association of said first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit of said second type, said protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit exchange at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter,

transmitting, in said exchange of said negotiation message, a negotiation message containing a value for said parameter from said protocol entity of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit to said protocol entity of said first communication unit

wherein said value for said parameter depends on a transmission characteristic of a transmission medium between said new second communication unit and its associated third communication unit and

wherein said value can be determined by said third communication unit for each of the second communication units it can be associated with.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~13~~12,

~~characterised in that in~~wherein said exchange of ~~at least one~~said negotiation message, ~~the~~said protocol entity of ~~the~~said first ~~CU~~communication unit performs the following ~~steps~~:

receiving ~~the~~said negotiation message transmitted by ~~the~~said protocol entity of ~~the~~said third ~~CU~~communication unit that is associated with ~~the~~said new second

~~CU~~communication unit and containing a value for said parameter, and

transmitting a negotiation message to ~~the~~said protocol entity of ~~the~~said third ~~CU~~communication unit that is associated with ~~the~~said new second ~~CU~~communication unit containing the same or a higher value for said parameter.

16. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said first ~~CU~~communication unit is a ~~Mobile Station (MS)~~mobile station of a mobile radio system,

~~that~~wherein said second ~~CUs~~communication units are ~~Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs)~~base transceiver stations, and

~~that~~wherein said third ~~CUs~~communication units are ~~Mobile-services Switching Centres (MSCs)~~mobile-services switching centres.

17. (currently amended) A method according to claim 16,

~~characterised in that~~wherein one out of ~~the~~said first and second types of said second ~~CU~~communication unit is a ~~BTS~~base transceiver station that is connected to its associated ~~MSC~~mobile-services switching centre via a lower-delay network, and

~~that~~wherein the other type of said second ~~CU~~communication unit is a ~~BTS~~base transceiver station that is connected to its associated ~~MSC~~mobile-services switching centre via a higher-delay network.

18. (currently amended) A method according to claim 17,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said lower-delay network is a ~~Time Division Multiplex (TDM)~~time division multiplex network.

19. (currently amended) A method according to claim 17,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said higher-delay network is at least partially based on the ~~Internet Protocol (IP)~~internet protocol or a satellite connection.

20. (currently amended) A method according to claim 17,

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~~characterised in that the MSC~~ wherein said mobile-services switching centre that is connected to its associated ~~BTS~~base transceiver station via a lower-delay network is either operated according to the ~~UMTS~~universal mobile telecommunications system standard, the ~~GSM~~global system for mobile communications standard or a derivative thereof, and

~~that the MSC~~wherein said mobile-serves switching centre that is connected to its associated ~~BTS~~base transceiver via a higher-delay network is either operated according to the ~~UMTS~~universal mobile telecommunications system standard, the ~~GSM~~global system for mobile communciations standard or a derivative thereof.

21. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said protocol is a circuit switched, non-transparent single- and/or multi-link data protocol with ~~Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)~~automatic repeat request.

22. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said protocol is ~~the Radio Link Protocol (RLP)~~a radio link protocol.

23. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said parameter defines ~~the~~a value of an acknowledgement timer that guards ~~the~~a re-transmission period after which ~~the~~s re-transmission of a not-acknowledged frame within a protocol with ~~ARQ~~Automatic repeat request may be started.

24. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein said parameter defines ~~the~~a value of a re-sequencing timer that guards ~~the~~a difference between ~~the~~delays of frames transmitted on different physical links within a multi-link protocol.

25. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~11~~12,

~~characterised in that~~wherein said transmission characteristic is related to ~~the~~a transmission delay.

26. (currently amended) A method for negotiation of ~~a~~at least one parameter ~~or parameters~~for use in the operation of a protocol that controls data transmission between first ~~Communication Units (CUs)~~ communication units and third ~~CUs~~communication units via second ~~CUs~~communication units,

where ~~the~~said protocol is operated by protocol entities in ~~the~~said first and third ~~CUs~~communication units,

where a first ~~CU~~communication unit is always associated with a second ~~CU~~communication unit at a time,

where a second ~~CU~~communication unit is always associated with a third ~~CU~~communication unit at a time, and

where there exist ~~second CUs of at least a first and second type and/or~~third ~~CUs~~communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

~~characterised in that~~said method comprising:

wherein in ~~the~~case that it is possible that an association of said first ~~CU~~communication unit with a second ~~CU~~communication unit that is associated with a third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~a~~said first type may be changed to an association of said first ~~CU~~communication unit with a second ~~CU~~communication unit that is associated with a third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~a~~said second type, and

said protocol entities of said first ~~CU~~communication unit and said protocol entities of said third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~the~~said first type perform the step of exchanging at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter prior to said change of associations.

27. (currently amended0 A method according to claim 26,

~~characterised in that~~wherein in said ~~exchange of at least one~~exchanging said

negotiation message, ~~the~~said protocol entities in ~~the~~said first ~~CU~~communication unit or ~~the~~said third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~the~~said first type perform the following ~~steps~~:

checking whether it is possible that said data transmission between ~~the~~said first ~~CU~~communication unit and ~~the~~said third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~the~~said second type is a multi-link data transmission that requires ~~the~~a definition of a re-sequencing timer as said parameter for said protocol, and

checking whether a value for said re-sequencing timer is available as a basis for negotiation.

28. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising software code portions directly loadable into ~~the internal~~a computer readable memory ~~of a digital computer, comprising software code portions~~ said software code portions when run on a computer for performing the ~~steps~~actions of claim 31 ~~when said product is run on a computer~~.

29. (currently amended) A system comprising first communication units, second communication units and third communication units, wherein the system is for data transmission between said first ~~Communication Units (CUs)~~ communication units of said system and said third ~~CUs~~communication units of said system via said second ~~CUs~~communication units of said system,

where ~~the~~a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in ~~the~~said first and third ~~CUs~~communication units,

where a first ~~CU~~communication unit is always associated with a second ~~CU~~communication unit at a time,

where a second ~~CU~~communication unit is always associated with a third ~~CU~~communication unit at a time, and

where there exist ~~second CUs of at least a first and second type and/or~~ third ~~CUs~~communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

~~characterised in that~~wherein when an existing association of said first

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~~CU~~communication unit with a former second ~~CU~~communication unit that was associated with a third communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first ~~CU~~communication unit with a new second ~~CU~~communication unit,

said protocol entities of ~~the~~said first ~~CU~~communication unit and protocol entities of ~~the~~said third ~~CU~~communication unit of said second type ~~associated with the new second CU~~ exchange at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter,

wherein said exchange of said at least one negotiation message is started by said first communication unit by transmitting, from a protocol entity of said first communication unit, a negotiation message containing a value for said parameter to a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type.

30. (currently amended) A system comprising first communication units, second communication units and third communication units, wherein the system is for data transmission between said first ~~Communication Units (Cus)~~ communication units of said system and said third ~~Cus~~communication units of said system via said second ~~Cus~~communication units of said system,

where ~~the~~a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in ~~the~~said first and third ~~Cus~~communication units,

where a first ~~CU~~communication unit is always associated with a second ~~CU~~communication unit at a time,

where a second ~~CU~~communication unit is always associated with a third ~~CU~~communication unit at a time, and

where there exist ~~second Cus of at least a first and second type and/or~~ third ~~Cus~~communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

~~characterised in that~~wherein in ~~the~~ case that it is possible that an association of ~~said~~a first ~~CU~~communication unit with a second ~~CU~~communication unit that is associated with a third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~a~~said first type may be changed to an

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association of said first ~~CU~~communication unit with a second ~~CU~~communication unit
that is associated with a third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~a~~said second type,

said protocol entities of said first ~~CU~~communication unit and said protocol
entities of said third ~~CU~~communication unit of ~~the~~said first type perform the step of
exchanging at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter
prior to said change of associations.

31. (new) A first communication unit in a system for data transmission between first
communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via
second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol
entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is always associated with a second
communication unit at a time,

where a second communication unit is always associated with a third
communication unit at a time, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type
that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said
protocol,

said first communication unit comprising:

a processor arranged for starting, in case an existing association of said first
communication unit with a former second communication unit that was associated with
a third communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first
communication unit with a new second communication unit that is associated with a
third communication unit of said second type, an initiative for an exchange of at least
one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter between protocol
entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of said third
communication unit of said second type by transmitting, from a protocol entity of said
first communication unit, a negotiation message containing a value for said parameter
to a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type.

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32. (new) A third communication unit in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is always associated with a second communication unit at a time,

where a second communication unit is always associated with a third communication unit at a time,

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

wherein said third communication unit is a third communication unit of said second type and comprises:

a processor arranged for exchanging, in case an existing association of a first communication unit with a former second communication unit that was associated with a third communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit that is associated with said third communication unit of said second type, at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter between protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of said third communication unit of said second type, wherein said exchange of said at least one negotiation message is started by said first communication unit by transmitting, from a protocol entity of said first communication unit, a negotiation message containing a value for said parameter to a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type.

33. (new) A system comprising first communication units, second communication units and third communication units, wherein the system is for data transmission between said first communication units of said system and said third communication units of said

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system via said second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is always associated with a second communication unit at a time,

where a second communication unit is always associated with a third communication unit at a time, and

where there exist second communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

wherein when an existing association of a first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit of said second type, said protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of a third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit exchange at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter,

wherein in said exchange of said negotiation message, said protocol entity of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit performs the step of transmitting a negotiation message containing a value for said parameter to said protocol entity of said first communication unit,

wherein said value for said parameter depends on a transmission characteristic of a transmission medium between said new second communication unit and its associated third communication unit and that said value can be determined by said third communication unit for each for the second communication units it can be associated with.

34. (new) A first communication unit in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

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where a first communication unit is always associated with a second communication unit at a time,

where a second communication unit is always associated with a third communication unit at a time, and

where there exist second communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

said first communication unit comprising:

a processor arranged for exchanging, in case that an existing association of said first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit of said second type, at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter between protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of a third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit,

wherein in said exchange of said negotiation message, said protocol entity of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit performs the step of transmitting a negotiation message containing a value for said parameter to said protocol entity of said first communication unit, and

wherein said value for said parameter depends on a transmission characteristic of a transmission medium between said new second communication unit and its associated third communication unit and that said value can be determined by said third communication unit for each for the second communication units it can be associated with.

35. (new) A third communication unit in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is always associated with a second

communication unit at a time,

where a second communication unit is always associated with a third communication unit at a time, and

where there exist second communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

said third communication unit comprising:

a processor arranged for exchanging, in case an existing association of a first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit of said second type that is associated with said third communication unit, at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter between protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of said third communication unit,

wherein in said exchange of said negotiation message, said protocol entity of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit performs the step of transmitting a negotiation message containing a value for said parameter to said protocol entity of said first communication unit, wherein said value for said parameter depends on a transmission characteristic of a transmission medium between said new second communication unit and its associated third communication unit and that said value can be determined by said third communication unit for each for the second communication units it can be associated with.

36. (new) A first communication unit in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is always associated with a second communication unit at a time,

where a second communication unit is always associated with a third

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communication unit at a time, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

said first communication unit comprising:

a processor arranged for exchanging, in case that it is possible that an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said first type may be changed to an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type, at least one negotiation message, which contains a value for said parameter, between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said protocol entities of said third communication unit prior to said change of associations.

37. (new) A third communication unit in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is always associated with a second communication unit at a time,

where a second communication unit is always associated with a third communication unit at a time, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

wherein said third communication unit is a third communication unit of said first type and comprises:

a processor arranged for exchanging, in case that it is possible that an association of a first communication unit with a second communication unit that is

associated with said third communication unit may be changed to an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type, at least one negotiation message, which contains a value for said parameter, between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said protocol entities of said third communication unit prior to said change of associations.